

Lecture, Screening & Discussion

Marko Stamenkovic
"WHO KILLED PHILOSOPHY?"

Wednesday, 19 November 2014, 11:00AM
Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey
Faculty of Fine Arts, Conference Hall – Floor 8
<http://yeditepe.edu.tr/undergraduate/art-management>

There is no need to talk about death. It is omnipresent as it happens on a daily basis, everywhere. Suffice to say: death is an "unequivocal and permanent end of our existence" (Thomas Nagel 1979). Full point - it is inevitable and nobody could possibly add anything new to this topic. You'd like to give a talk about it? "But what do we really know of the dead and who actually cares?" (Nick Cave 2008). Thank you, but there is no need to talk about death, especially not *here and now*. So, no discussion necessary: do not "philosophize" about death too much – there are more important issues to deal with. I am sorry but I cannot help you – I am too busy now...

On the eve of the **World Philosophy Day** (20 November 2014), it is, perhaps, the time to break the code of silence and start "philosophizing" about death again, despite its persistent and evident presence. If death prevents human beings from knowing themselves as they are, it also prevents them from seeing what must remain invisible during their lifetime. Let us, therefore, question the "absolute power" of our knowledge about death – and the "mandatory silence" therein – so we can focus on our absolute ignorance about death instead. If "the history of death is a history of self-reflection" (Douglas J. Davies, 2005), we cannot accept that "there is no need to talk about death". Neither can we accept that our self-reflection (the knowledge about our own selves) should remain in the hands of some "absolute power" which claims to know the ultimate truth about Life and Death. Hence, to have the knowledge about ourselves liberated from this "power-regime of knowledge" means to discover death in the act that is properly philosophical. If it is the right time to start, "it is, perhaps, a time to contemplate our own death" (Stuart J. Murray 2006): or, at least, to expose the imperfections of life by cutting through any false façade about the politics of death, *right here and right now*.

Rafik Majzoub - Memoirs of a Screw: The Life and Art of an Outsider (2014)

A web-documentary by Ann Megalla
<http://rafikmajzoub-thescREW.com>

After his introductory presentation, the public discussion with Marko Stamenkovic will be accompanied by the excerpts from a web-documentary "**Memoirs of a Screw**". The movie, directed, written and produced by Ann Megalla, puts into focus Rafik Majzoub. (born in 1971 in Amman, Jordan, based in Beirut, Lebanon), an Outsider Artist who landed on the Lebanese art scene like a tornado in the early 1990s and whose cult-like fame has gone beyond his city of adoption. Majzoub's curious character cuts through any false façade to expose the imperfections of life. Likewise, his emotionally charged artworks cracks open the murky corners of the soul and of the creative spirit. With disarming honesty and a voice that is intimately his own, Rafik Majzoub brings us a life story that is frank, fearless and true. His "outsider's philosophy" challenges our preconceived ideas about the "deep play" between life and death, but also about the people's passion to follow their creative impulses and, despite everything, to realize themselves through visual arts as exemplary human beings.

Ann Megalla is an Australian-Egyptian digital storyteller whose work has been seen around the globe. Specializing in documentary production and brand marketing experience, her multi award-winning work has featured across leading TV broadcast and digital publications in Australia, Europe and Middle East including BBC International and The National Geographic Channel. Combining her anthropology, filmmaking, and digital expertise, Ann is on a quest to push the boundaries of traditional arts discourse with storytelling in a digital age.

Marko Stamenkovic (1977, Vranje) is a curator born and raised in the south of Serbia. He has been a member of IKT - The International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art since 2006. He graduated in Art History from the University of Belgrade (2003) and received his M.A. degree in Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies from the University of Arts in Belgrade (2005). In 2014 he earned his doctoral degree in Philosophy from the University of Ghent (Belgium) with the thesis "Suicide Cultures. Theories and Practices of Radical Withdrawal". His PhD research was realized at the Department of Philosophy and Moral Sciences under Prof. Dr. Tom Claes (CEVI-Center for Ethics and Value Inquiry). <https://ugent.academia.edu/MarkoStamenkovic>